

## CLAIMS:

1        1. For a switched telephone network, switching equipment comprising:  
2            a switch operating in said switched telephone network and operable to:  
3                (a) establish telephonic communications between callers and called  
4                parties over a predetermined number of subscriber lines with a standard ring  
5                pattern, and

6                (b) transmit an emergency ring pattern over a majority of said subscriber  
7                lines in response to a single command event.

1        2. For a switched telephone network according to claim 1 wherein said  
2            switching equipment comprises:

3                a link for sending a broadcast signal signifying the occurrence of said  
4                single command event, in order to broadcast the need for a recurrence  
5                elsewhere of a response performed locally by said switch in response to said  
6                single command event.

1        3. For a switched telephone network according to claim 2 wherein said  
2            link comprises a common channel signaling network.

1        4. For a switched telephone network according to claim 2 wherein said  
2            link comprises a common channel signaling network coupled to said switch,  
3            said switch being operable to transmit said broadcast signal to said link.

1        5. For a switched telephone network according to claim 2 wherein said  
2            broadcast signal includes information signifying a destination for said broadcast  
3            signal.

1        6. For a switched telephone network according to claim 2 wherein said  
2            broadcast signal includes information signifying an emergency type.

1        7. For a switched telephone network according to claim 1 wherein said  
2 switching equipment comprises:

3              a database having information about said subscriber lines, said switching  
4 equipment being operable to send said emergency ring pattern to a portion of  
5 said subscriber lines from said database in response to said single command  
6 event.

1        8. For a switched telephone network according to claim 1 wherein said  
2 switching equipment is operable to transmit said emergency ring pattern at  
3 different times for different groupings of the subscriber lines.

1        9. For a switched telephone network according to claim 8 wherein said  
2 switching equipment is operable to multiplex said emergency ring pattern in  
3 order to ring in the same time period with a different phase.

1        10. For a switched telephone network according to claim 8 wherein said  
2 subscriber lines are segregated into a plurality of ordered tiers, said switching  
3 equipment being operable to sequentially ring individual ones of said ordered  
4 tiers exclusively before completing and sequencing to the next one of said tiers.

1        11. For a switched telephone network according to claim 1 wherein said  
2 switching equipment comprises:

3              a link for sending a broadcast signal signifying the occurrence of said  
4 single command event to one or more cellular telephone networks and PBXs,  
5 in order to broadcast the need for a recurrence elsewhere of a response  
6 performed locally by said switch in response to said single command event.

1        12. For a switched telephone network employing a common channel  
2 signaling network, switching equipment comprising:

3              a switch operating in said switched telephone network and operable to:  
4              (a) establish telephonic communications between callers and called

5 parties over a plurality of subscriber lines with a standard ring pattern, and  
6 (b) transmit an emergency ring pattern in response to a single command  
7 event conveyed to said switch over said common channel signaling network.

1 13. For a switched telephone network according to claim 12 wherein said  
2 switching equipment comprises:

3 a link for sending a broadcast signal over said common channel signaling  
4 network signifying the occurrence of said single command event, in order to  
5 broadcast the need for a recurrence elsewhere of a response performed locally  
6 by said switch in response to said single command event.

1 14. For a switched telephone network according to claim 13 wherein said  
2 broadcast signal includes information signifying a destination for said broadcast  
3 signal.

1 15. For a switched telephone network according to claim 13 wherein said  
2 broadcast signal includes information signifying an emergency type.

1 16. For a switched telephone network according to claim 12 wherein said  
2 switching equipment comprises:

3 a database having information about said subscriber lines, said switching  
4 equipment being operable to send said emergency ring pattern to a portion of  
5 said subscriber lines from said database in response to said single command  
6 event.

1 17. For a switched telephone network according to claim 12 wherein said  
2 switching equipment is operable to transmit said emergency ring pattern at  
3 different times for different groupings of the subscriber lines.

1 18. For a switched telephone network according to claim 17 wherein said  
2 switching equipment is operable to multiplex said emergency ring pattern in

3 order to ring in the same time period with a different phase.

1        19. For a switched telephone network according to claim 17 wherein said  
2 subscriber lines are segregated into a plurality of ordered tiers, said switching  
3 equipment being operable to sequentially ring individual ones of said ordered  
4 tiers exclusively before completing and sequencing to the next one of said tiers.

1        20. For a switched telephone network according to claim 12 wherein said  
2 switching equipment comprises:

3        a link for sending a broadcast signal signifying the occurrence of said  
4 single command event to one or more cellular telephone networks and PBXs, in  
5 order to broadcast the need for a recurrence elsewhere of a response performed  
locally by said switch in response to said single command event.

1        21. In a communications system having a switched telephone network  
2 and a common channel signaling network, an emergency broadcast system  
3 comprising:

4        an emergency center for issuing a broadcast signal destined to travel on  
5 said common channel signaling network and having information designed to  
6 initiate on said switched telephone network:

7            (a) switching that simultaneously connects a plurality of telephones; and  
8            (b) transmission of a distinct ring pattern to said plurality of telephones.

1        22. In a communications system according to claim 21 wherein said  
2 broadcast signal includes information signifying a destination for said broadcast  
3 signal.

1        23. In a communications system according to claim 21 wherein said  
2 broadcast signal includes information signifying an emergency type.

1        24. In a communications system according to claim 21 wherein said

2       emergency center comprises:

3               a link for sending the broadcast signal to one or more cellular telephone  
4       networks and PBXs.

1       25. A method employing a switched telephone network and a common  
2       channel signaling network for broadcasting an emergency signal, comprising the  
3       steps of:

4               receiving a broadcast signal on said common channel signaling network;  
5               performing switching on said switched telephone network in response to  
6       said broadcast signal in order to simultaneously connect a plurality of  
7       telephones; and

8               transmitting an emergency ring pattern to said plurality of telephones.

1       26. A method according to claim 25 comprising the step of:

2               sending the broadcast signal over said common channel signaling  
3       network, in order to broadcast the need for a recurrence elsewhere of a  
4       response performed locally.

1       27. A method according to claim 26 wherein said broadcast signal  
2       includes information signifying a destination for said broadcast signal.

1       28. A method according to claim 26 wherein said broadcast signal  
2       includes information signifying an emergency type.

1       29. A method according to claim 25 wherein a database of subscriber  
2       lines is maintained for local switching equipment, the method including the step  
3       of:

4               sending said emergency ring pattern to a portion of said subscriber lines  
5       from said database in response to said broadcast signal.

1       30. A method according to claim 25 wherein the step of transmitting a

2       ring pattern is performed by transmitting said emergency ring pattern at  
3       different times for different groupings of subscriber lines.

1           31. A method according to claim 30 wherein the step of transmitting a  
2       ring pattern is performed by multiplexing said emergency ring pattern in order  
3       to ring different lines in the same time period with a different phase.

1           32. A method according to claim 30 wherein a central office has  
2       jurisdiction over a plurality of subscriber lines that are segregated into a plurality  
3       of ordered tiers, the step of transmitting a ring pattern being performed by  
4       sequentially ringing individual ones of said ordered tiers exclusively before  
5       completing and sequencing to the next one of said tiers.

1           33. A method according to claim 25 comprising the step of:  
2       sending the broadcast signal to one or more cellular telephone networks  
3       and PBXs, in order to broadcast the need for a recurrence elsewhere of a  
4       response performed locally in response to said broadcast signal.

1           34. A method employing a switched telephone network and a common  
2       channel signaling network for broadcasting an emergency signal in response to  
3       a single command event, comprising the steps of:

4       establishing telephonic communications between callers and called parties  
5       over a predetermined number of subscriber lines with a standard ring pattern,  
6       and

7       transmitting an emergency ring pattern over a majority of said subscriber  
8       lines in response to a single command event.

1           35. A method according to claim 34 comprising the step of:  
2       sending a broadcast signal signifying the occurrence of said single  
3       command event, in order to broadcast the need for a recurrence elsewhere of  
4       a response performed locally in response to said single command event.

1       36. A method according to claim 35 wherein the broadcast signal  
2 includes information signifying a destination for said broadcast signal.

1       37. A method according to claim 35 wherein said broadcast signal  
2 includes information signifying an emergency type.

1       38. A method according to claim 34 wherein a database of subscriber  
2 lines is maintained for local switching equipment, the method including the step  
3 of:

4           sending said emergency ring pattern to a portion of said subscriber lines  
5 from said database in response to said single command event.

1       39. A method according to claim 34 wherein the step of transmitting an  
2 emergency ring pattern is performed by transmitting said emergency ring pattern  
3 at different times for different groupings of lines.

1       40. A method according to claim 39 wherein the step of transmitting an  
2 emergency ring pattern is performed by multiplexing said emergency ring pattern  
3 in order to ring different lines in the same time period with a different phase.

1       41. A method according to claim 39 wherein a central office has  
2 jurisdiction over a plurality of subscriber lines that are segregated into a plurality  
3 of ordered tiers, the step of transmitting a ring pattern being performed by  
4 sequentially ringing individual ones of said ordered tiers exclusively before  
5 completing and sequencing to the next one of said tiers.

1       42. A method according to claim 34 wherein comprising the step of:  
2           sending a broadcast signal signifying the occurrence of said single  
3 command event to one or more cellular telephone networks and PBXs, in order  
4 to broadcast the need for a recurrence elsewhere of a response performed

5 locally in response to said single command event.